

PITTSFIELD, MASS.
BERKSHIRE EAGLE

E. 29,304
JUN 27 1967

CIA's Judgment Is Criticized By Rep. Conte

Congressman Silvio O. Conte was of the opinion in his weekly newsletter to constituents in the district that the clandestine financial aid given by the Central Intelligence Agency to the National Student Association points up the "short-sightedness of this super-secret agency and its bland assumption that a watchdog press and a suspicious, questioning public are not going to find out what's going on sooner or later."

Conte said he believed it was an "error of judgment, and the loss in prestige and trust will surely outweigh the potential gains that might have been made."

Counter-Effort

The Pittsfield lawmaker agreed that "some effort" must be made to counter the Communist campaign to enlist and persuade eager young minds, but he questioned the manner in which the aid was given because, he said, it reflected on the influence and credibility of the recipient organizations.

With an annual check on CIA expenditures, Conte said, there is no way of making sure that allocated tax monies are being spent according to approved appropriations. He said there is no evidence to suggest that CIA's effectiveness would be weakened by a congressional budget check, and there is evidence that the FBI, NASA, the Defense Department and the Atomic Energy Commission can operate effectively and in secrecy even though their budgets are passed upon by Congress.

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